

CSO Control Option

Reduce Peak Flows of Storm Water and Ground Water into the Sewer System

Disconnecting roof drains, foundations drains and street runoff from the combined sewer; repairing leaks in the system; and installing rain gardens and bioswales can eliminate or delay peak flows into the combined system.

Key Considerations

- Low-tech, “green” solutions to CSOs
- Reducing storm water flow gets at the root of the CSO problem
- Peak flows into the combined system during storms are reduced, minimizing the need for other capital improvements
- Storm water must be managed in other ways, such as bioswales
- Extensive property owner participation is essential
- Confirming sources and locations of storm water connections can be difficult
- Numerous agreements with government agencies and private property owners are required



A bioswale stores and filters storm water runoff



Rain barrels capture roof drainage and keep it out of sewers



Downspouts are directly connected to combined sewers in older cities like Seattle



King County